



## School Meals Coalition Monthly Newsletter

February 2023



### The year ahead

2023 will be an exciting year, marked by the first global meeting of the Coalition in Paris in the fall and opportunities to showcase progress and connect into important global discussions through moments like the UN Food Systems Summit stocktaking event and COP28. The Coalition accomplished so much in 2022 thanks to the leadership of governments and support of partners, which culminated not only in School Meals Coalition Week and the Helsinki Ministerial but in tangible progress in many countries. The Coalition – now at 76 members and 81 partners – has momentum and a solid platform to build on these achievements over the coming year.

The Coalition is also eagerly awaiting the release of the **2022 State of School Feeding Worldwide** report in March. This report will showcase for the first time the progress made since the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools around the world, affecting the lives of hundreds of millions of children. Its data, country examples and insights from governments and partners working together to restore and expand the reach of school meals programmes for children now and in future generations will have significant meaning for the Coalition's work. Key messages and analysis will be shared in the leadup to the report's release, including in the March newsletter.

The Coalition is energized by a new two-and-a-half-year [partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation](#) to improve the nutrition of vulnerable children through promoting the procurement of more nutritious food in school meals programmes in partnership with the governments of Benin, Ghana, Honduras and India. The initiative, focused on solutions such as local food production, food fortification and nutrition education, depending on the country, builds on ongoing work between Rockefeller and the World Food Programme in Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda. The Coalition and its Research Consortium will serve as important platforms to share country progress and experiences and showcase the tools and products developed through the partnership.



### Country spotlights

Beginning this month, the Coalition will begin profiling examples of how it is operationalizing in countries to work with governments toward implementation of their commitments. Please send any updates you would like to submit for consideration to [global.smcsecretariat@wfp.org](mailto:global.smcsecretariat@wfp.org).

One example is in **Cote D'Ivoire**, where the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition is working with the government and other partners to build a value for money case study to showcase the impact of increased investments in school meals.

The project has already generated local press:

Below is a summary of some of the individual country commitments of the day:

- [“Cote d'Ivoire initiates a study on the cost/benefit of school feeding on the national territory,”](#) *Agence Ivoirienne de Presse*, January 13, 2023.
- [“Audience/Alimentation en milieu scolaire: La représentante du PAM en Côte d'Ivoire reçue par le ministre Adama Diawara,”](#) *Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique*, January 19, 2023.



In **Mauritania**, a workshop was held January 12-13 to map current national capacities for school feeding against the ambition of the Coalition, of which the country has been a member since September 2021. The session was attended by Minister of National Education and Reform of the Educational System, His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed-Amin, and focused on the need to strengthen procurement and scale to improve menus and food baskets and to build guidelines for implementation and design of programmes. The resulting assessment and action plan will be shared with key government ministries and, once signed off on, used to develop Mauritania's national commitment to the Coalition.

In **Zimbabwe**, a similar series of workshops was held throughout 2022, resulting in the government signing the Coalition's Declaration of Commitment and identifying actions to develop viable procurement models and a national strategy to strengthen Home Grown School Feeding. A technical working group of representatives from key ministries, the UN and civil society will take the work forward.



## Event digest

REPORT RELEASE: **"Ready to learn and thrive: School health and nutrition around the world,"** on February 9 at 13:30 CEST. This new, global status report on School Health and Nutrition will be released during a virtual event with remarks from a dynamic panel of country policy leaders, experts, academics, and young people. Register [here](#).

EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT HIGH-LEVEL FINANCING CONFERENCE: The conference, occurring February 16-17, includes **a session on school health and nutrition**, including school meals, on February 17 at 11:30 CET. See the full programme and register [here](#).



## Resources and publications

As we reported in 2022, FAO and WFP launched the [School Food Global Hub](#) to provide experts and professionals with resources about school food and nutrition and related topics. One component is a technical exchange to facilitate information sharing between countries and partners on good practices, lessons learned and policy and programmatic standards relevant to school food and nutrition. To share your views on how the technical exchange can be most helpful to your work, please fill out [this survey](#).

The most recent Policy Brief from the Sustainable Financing Initiative of the Coalition, **"Finance for school feeding: Unlocking opportunities for learning, nutrition and food security,"** can be found [here](#).



## How to get engaged

As a reminder, for additional updates on emerging evidence, expert insights, and upcoming events on school meals and school health, sign up to the **newsletter of the Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition** [here](#). To stay abreast on latest developments on the Sustainable Financing Initiative, sign up for **the Education Commission's newsletter** with the subscribe button at the bottom of [this page](#).

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to be on our regular mailing list, please contact us at [global.smcsecretariat@wfp.org](mailto:global.smcsecretariat@wfp.org). If you would like to join the School Meals Coalition, you can signal your interest in signing the Declaration of Commitment (as a government) or Declaration of Support through contacting the same email address.

Yours sincerely,

*School Meals Coalition Secretariat*

